

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 AID-05 SAM-01 /091 W

----- 065560

R 241050Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9916

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU, IZ

SUBJECT: NEW SUDANESE FONMIN COMMENTS ON ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. DURING CALL ON NEW FONMIN JAMAL MUHAMMED AHMED THIS MORNING TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS APPOINTMENT, AMBASSADOR READ TEXT ETHIOPIAN RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT RE HAILE SELASSIE'S ILLNESS (ADDIS 6118) WHICH AHMED HAD NOT HEARD. AHMED COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WISE FOR DIRG TO CALL IN SOME OUTSIDE SPECIALIST BEFORE ANY OPERATION PERFORMED. THIS WOULD ENTAIL NO RISK FOR DIRG BUT WOULD PROMPT POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM OUTSIDE ETHIOPIA.

2. FONMIN THEN SAID THAT ETHIOPIAN SITUATION WAS STILL OBSCURE. "THEY" WERE CONTINUING REFUSE FOLLOW NIMEIRI'S ADVICE, MOST RECENTLY JAILING THREE LEADING ETHIOPIAN LABOR LEADERS AND SUSPENDING OPERATIONS CELU LABOR FEDERATION (ADDIS 6116). THIS WAS NOT WAY TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR REGIME, AHMED INDICATED. HE MADE DISPARAGING REMARK REGARDING FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN MENGISTU.

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3. ON ERITREAN ISSUE, AHMED CONFIRMED THAT MEASURE OF AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED BETWEEN ELF AND PLF BUT SAID THAT IT HARDLY HELPED NIMEIRI'S MEDIATION INITIATIVE. TWO ERITREAN GROUPS HAD AGREED THAT TALKS WITH EPMG WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE ON BASIS INDEPENDENCE FOR ERITREA, WHICH HAD "NEVER" BEEN PART OF ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE. AHMED BEMOANED FACT THAT THIS POSITION, AS WELL AS EMPG WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE ON BASIS FEDERATION, IGNORED SUDANESE EXPERIENCE WHICH HAD PROMPTED NIMEIRI'S PROPOSAL FOR TALKS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. AHMED INDICATED THAT GOS WAS NOW WORKING WITH ERITREANS IN EFFORT TO PRODUCE SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE STANCE.

4. ON ARAB ASSISTANCE TO ERITREANS, AHMED SAID THAT

IRAQIS HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO NIMEIRI'S PROPOSAL (DURING HIS STATE VISIT BAGHDAD IN APRIL) THAT ARMS AID TO ERITREANS BE SUSPENDED. NIMEIRI HAD POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS COMPLICATING HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS. IRAQIS HAD INDICATED UNDERSTANDING BUT HAD ADDED THAT, SHOULD MEDIATION FAIL, THEIR EXISTING COMMITMENT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ERITREANS WOULD HAVE TO BE HONORED. BREWER

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